

February 7, 2017

Proposed Bill 23

Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

**An Act Requiring Site-Neutral Payments for Health Care Services**

I write in strong support.

As the hospital systems in Connecticut have grown through the acquisition of individual doctor practices and outpatient facilities, the promise of decreasing costs has not happened. The “added” value of being associated with a hospital system has translated into added costs for the patient.

Congress has adopted a site neutral policy at the Federal level and it anticipates significant savings this coming year for Medicare. Passage **Proposed bill 23** would assure that the patient is not “surprised” by a surcharge. Site neutral legislation would assure that the cost would be the same in the physician’s office or an outpatient facility associated with a hospital.

As the patient share of healthcare costs continues to increase and the lack of cost and quality transparency persists, this is an immediate action that can support the patient.

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